

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KHARTO 03610 180825Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-12 ARA-10 EUR-12 IO-13 MCE-00
EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /123 W
-----076436 182043Z /63

R 180719Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5650
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY SANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 3610

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, PINT, SU, SO, ET, US
SUBJECT: SUDANESE VIEWS ON HORN DEVELOPMENTS

REF: KHARTOUM 3565

1. DURING CONVERSATION OCT 15 ON OTHER MATTERS, NUR ALI SULEIMAN, ACTING DIRECTOR POLAFFS AT FONMIN, WAS HIGHLY CRITICAL OF US DECISION NOT RPT NOT TO PROVIDE ARMS FOR SOMALIA. HE CHARGED THAT US HAD GONE BACK ON ITS WORD AND OUR DECISION WAS TANTAMOUNT TO SUPPORTING ETHIOPIA. SULEIMAN SAID SOMALIS REALIZE IT WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO HOLD GAINS MADE IN OGADEN WPRROUT WESTERTWKRMS. SOMALIS UNDER-TOOK OGADEN CAMPAIGN IN BELIEF US HAD AGREED PROVIDE ARMS.

2. IN REPLY DCM ACKNOWLEDGED THAT CONSERVATIVE ARAB STATES WERE CONTINUING URGE US TO SELL ARMS TO SOMALIA
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WHICH THEY CONSIDER CRUCIAL IN THEIR EFFORTS TO DRAW THAT COUNTRY AWAY FROM SOVIET ORBIT. HOWEVER, IT POLITICALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO SELL ARMS TO SOMALIA AT TIME WHEN CLEARLY IT IS SUPPORTING, IF NOT ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING IN, WAR IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRY. DESPITE CONCERN OF OUR ARAB FRIENDS, TO WHICH WE ATTACH CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE, US IN THIS INSTANCE MUST BE GUIDED BY OAU DECISION TO HONOR EXISTING

INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARIES IN AFRICA. DCM NOTED THAT NOT ONE NON-ARAB AFRICAN COUNTRY HAD URGED US TO SUPPORT SOMALIA. MOREOVER, KENYA HAD EXPRESSED GRAVE CONCERN OVER SOMALIA EXPANSIONISM, AND KENYAN CONCERNS HAD AN INFLUENCE ON US THINKING. NEVERTHELESS, WE WISHED TO BE FRIENDLY WITH SOMALIA AND WERE DOING WHAT WE COULD TO IMPROVE OUR RELATIONS AND ASSIST COUNTRY ECONOMICALLY.

3. SULEIMAN CONFIRMED THAT SUDA IS URGING DIALOGUE BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND ERITREAN REBELS (REFTEL). SUDAN IS ENCOURAGING ERITREAN FACTIONS TO UNIFY, AND SULEIMAN SAID HE BELIEVED NEGOTIATIONS WITH ETHIOPIA COULD TAKE PLACE IF ERITREAN UNITY COULD BE ACHIEVED.

4. COMMENT: ON SOMALIA, BELIEVE SUDANESE UNDERSTAND REASONS BEHIND US POLICIES AND LOCAL OFFICIALS ACKNOWLEDGE THAT OAU SUPPORT FOR SOMALIA IS WEAK. HOWEVER, CONSERVATIVE ARAB BLOC ALSO BELIEVES EFFORTS TO DRAW SOMALIA AWAY FROM SOVIETS UNLIKELY TO BE SUCCESSFUL WITHOUT ASSURED SOURCE OF WESTERN ARMS. THUS, WITH RESPECT TO SOMALIA, SUDANGOV APPARENTLY IS INFLUENCED MORE BY ITS ARAB ATTITUDES THAN BY AFRICAN POSITION AS DEFINED BY OAU. OUTCOME OF SUDANESE POLICY IN ETHIOPIA PROBABLY WILL DEPEND ON EFFORTS UNDER WAY TO UNIFY ERITREAN FACTIONS. UNTIL NOW THESE EFFORTS HAVE NOT RPT NOT BEEN SUCCESSFUL. HOWEVER, TWO ERITREAN REBLES, ISAIAS AFEWORK AND
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OSMAN SABBE WHO AT LAST REPORT WERE NOT ON SPEAKING TERMS, WERE REPORTEDLY SEEN TOGETHER LASMUDVWK AT HLFOM
UJIL IN KHARTOUM,
WHICH SUGGESTS SERIOUS UNIFICATION DISCUSSIONS UNDER WAY, AND
MAY EVEN BE MAKING SOME FORWARD MOVEMENT. BERGUS

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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